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SAUDI MAN SENTENCED FOR TRAVELING FROM SAUDI ARABIA TO VALLEJO TO ENGAGE IN ILLICIT SEXUAL CONDUCT WITH A 2 ½ YEAR OLD MINOR

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that NABIL AL ROWAIS, 37, of Saudi Arabia, was sentenced today to a term of 84 months in federal prison and supervised release for a period of 96 months for traveling to the United States for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct with a minor. His sentenced was imposed by Senior United States District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton. AL ROWAIS had pleaded guilty earlier this year to the charge he had traveled from Saudi Arabia to the State and Eastern District of California to have sex with a minor.

This case is the product of an extensive joint investigation by the SAFE Task Force comprised of the Department of Homeland Security Immigration Customs & Enforcement (ICE), the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the California Department of Justice Bureau of Investigation, and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

"All crimes involving the exploitation of children are disturbing. From time to time certain cases involving exploiting children, however, truly shock the conscience--the Al Rowais prosecution is one such case. The defendant is a poster boy for why the United States Justice Department established the Project Safe Childhood initiative, promoting greater collaboration

among local, state, and federal agencies to vigorously target child predators. The agencies involved in this case are to be commended for their outstanding work,” said United States Attorney Scott.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Heiko P. Coppola, who prosecuted the case, between April 26, 2006 and April 27, 2006 AL ROWAIS, a psychiatrist, traveled from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to Vallejo, California to engage in an illicit sexual act with a minor. According to court documents, in July, 2005, AL ROWAIS made contact with a Sacramento-based, California Department of Justice undercover agent who was posing as the father of a two and one-half year old girl. AL ROWAIS, who used the screen name Openminded_guy39, told the undercover agent he had been referred to him by another internet friend who thought they had a common interest in young children. During this first online chat, the undercover agent made it clear that his daughter was two-and-a-half years of age. In response, AL ROWAIS stated that was “a lovely age...and that it was good that his daughter could grow up knowing how to please daddy.” AL ROWAIS told the undercover agent that he had prior experience with a ten-year-old while she was sleeping and a two-year-old who was awake, calling them his prior girlfriends. AL ROWAIS offered to pay the undercover agent share his daughter with him and detailed what he would like to do sexually with the child.

The internet communications between AL ROWAIS and the undercover agent continued for a period of nine months. During that period, AL ROWAIS sent numerous images of child pornography to the undercover agent. AL ROWAIS also discussed meeting the undercover agent for purposes of engaging in sexual activity with his two-and-a-half year old girl. Finally, in April, 2006, AL ROWAIS told the undercover agent he could visit Sacramento later that

month. He further indicated he would like to be involved in the long-term training of the undercover agent's "little angel," noting "It would be fun to watch her grow through the years while we enjoy her." A meeting was ultimately arranged for April 27, 2006 at a Motel 6 located at 458 Fairgrounds Drive in Vallejo.

On April 27, 2006, AL ROWAIS traveled by limousine service from San Francisco to Vallejo, arriving at the Motel 6 room in which the undercover was located at approximately 6:30 p.m. When the agent asked who was there, a man's voice responded, "Larry," which was the fictitious first name the undercover agent had given to AL ROWAIS' email address during their online chat sessions. When the agent opened the door, AL ROWAIS was promptly arrested. In AL ROWAIS' possession was an overnight bag, which included, among other items, a video camera, two pair of girls underwear, and various documents.

A separate search of the San Francisco hotel at which AL ROWAIS had been staying revealed two boarding passes in his name, one from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to Frankfurt, Germany dated April 26, 2006 and the other from Frankfurt to the San Francisco International Airport dated April 26, 2006. Agents also found AL ROWAIS' Saudi passport and a business card from the Cyber Copy Internet Café, from where AL ROWAIS was picked up by the limousine service he hired to transport him from San Francisco to Vallejo.

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